



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

**Arizona Early Child Development and Health Board  
Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Call to Order/Welcome**

A Regular Meeting of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council was held on June 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time). The meeting was located at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room #1, Loop Road and Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona, 86515.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Boyne at approximately 10:12 a.m.

Members Present: Martin Ashley, Benjamin Barney, Grace Boyne, Paula Seanez, and Jeannette Yazzie; Rhonda Etsitty attended telephonically

FTF Staff Present: Melissa Begay, Elyse Dempsey, and Memarie Tsosie; Ann Kaskel attended telephonically

**Call to the Public**

There were no calls to the public at this time.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of the May 14, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Member Ashley that the Regional Council approve the May 14, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried.

**Conflict of Interest: Council Members will Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on the Agenda**

There were no Conflicts of Interest stated for the record at this time.

**Update and Discussion on SFY13 Quarter Three Financials and Data Reports**

Regional Director Begay presented SFY2013 Quarter Three data and financial reports for regional strategies, reporting that most grantees are continuing to meet their Contracted Service Units (CSUs), and expend their awards. Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. is in the final year of their grant award for Food Security and will not continue in SFY2014; Navajo County Public Health Services District, currently in their first grant year for Oral Health, may not met their CSUs due to program ramp up in the first six months of their initial grant award; and the Arizona Department of Health Services has not yet identified a therapist for the Recruitment – Stipend/Loan Forgiveness strategy despite extensive outreach recruitment throughout local communities and colleges/universities.

Member Seanez inquired about the effectiveness of the Parent Kits and recommended that a survey be provided to parents to acquire feedback. Member Seanez also recommended that the First Things First staff provide information to the Navajo Nation Office of Scholarship and Financial Assistance regarding the stipend/loan forgiveness for recruitment.

Member Barney recommended that the Arizona Department of Health Services, the administrative home of the Recruitment – Stipend/Loan strategy – recruit at colleges/universities that are highly attended by Navajo students.

### **Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on SFY14 Strategies**

Regional Director Begay provided updates and recommendations for SFY14 regional strategies and indicated any changes to strategy allotments will be moved to SFY14 Carry Forward for use in the SFY15 Funding Plan.

a. Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Council approve to defund the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships strategy in SFY2014, seconded by Member Ashley. Motion carried.

b. Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness

A motion was made by Member Ashley that the Regional Council defund the Recruitment – Stipend/Loan Forgiveness strategy in SFY2014, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried. 5:1:0

c. Parent Outreach and Awareness

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Council approve to decrease the SFY14 Parent Outreach and Awareness strategy allotment from \$100,000 to \$85,369, which will allow \$14,631 to be moved to SFY14 carry forward, seconded by Member Barney. Motion carried.

d. Expansion, Start-up, and/or Capital Expense

Regional Director Begay provided updates on the development of the scope of work to provide funding for Holbrook, Red Mesa and Tuba City Unified School Districts to expand early learning programs at these sites

e. Native Language Preservation

Regional Director Begay, in discussion with the Navajo Nation Office of Dine Culture, Language, and Community Services, indicated that a grant template will be completed, and include implementation of the Native Language Preservation strategy in three phases: 1) initial planning, 2) development of curriculum, and 3) implementation of curriculum.

f. Family, Friends, and Neighbors

Regional Director Begay noted that SFY2014 will be the third and final year of the grant contract for the current Family, Friends, and Neighbors grantee; and asked that the Regional Council consider a continuation of funding the strategy in SFY15 to SFY17. Should the Regional Council elect to continue funding, Regional Director Begay recommended an immediate completion of scope of work and grant template so Child Care Development Fund may have sufficient time to obtain approval.

g. Child Care Health Consultation

Ann Kaskel, Child Care Health Consultant for Children's Health, presented a PowerPoint with an overview of Child Care Health Consultation, implementation challenges of staffing and funding for staff positions, and alternative implementation options for Navajo Nation. Current grantee, Navajo Nation Growing in Beauty program, will not renew the contract in SFY2014. Ms. Kaskel informed the Regional Council of three implementation options including partnerships with local Regional Councils to pool resources; development of contracts with IHS/638 health facilities; or hiring a PRN position to serve the region while recruiting for a permanent staff member.

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Council approve partnership with one or more regions to pool resources to deliver Child Care Health Consultation services on Navajo Nation and/or to develop small contracts with Indian Health Services and/or 638 Health Facilities to deliver Child Care Health Consultation services on the Navajo Nation, seconded by Member Etsitty. Motion carried.

h. Home Visitation

A motion was made by Member Yazzie that the Regional Council approve to decrease the SFY14 Home Visitation strategy allotment from \$850,000 to \$389,966, which will allow \$460,034 to be moved to SFY14 carry forward, seconded by Member Seanez. Motion carried.

i. Scholarship non-TEACH

To implement options to obtain an Associate's or Bachelor's degree for early care providers receiving Scholarship non-TEACH funding, Regional Director Begay recommended that the Regional Council consider revising the strategy to potentially include partnerships with local post-education institutions to offer cohorts outside of the region.

Vice Chair Boyne expressed concern regarding currently qualified early care providers and a disinterest in returning to school to obtain an Associate or Bachelor degree.

Member Seanez requested additional research and discussion regarding action on Scholarship non-TEACH surrounding the various degrees required for early care providers on Navajo Nation and comparable salaries for degrees.

j. Prenatal Outreach

A motion was made by Member Yazzie that the Regional Council approve to defund the Prenatal Outreach strategy in SFY14, seconded by Member Ashley. Motion carried.

**Presentation and Discussion on Early Childhood System Building**

Regional Council elected to post-pone discussion regarding the Early Childhood System Building until July 2013 Regular Meeting due to insufficient meeting time.

**Discussion and Possible Action for Election of Regional Chair and Vice Chair for SFY2014**

A motion was made by Member Seanez that the Regional Council approve Harry Martin as Chair and Grace Boyne as Vice Chair for the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council for SFY2014, seconded by Member Yazzie. Motion carried. 5:0:1

**Regional Council Member Announcements**

Vice Chair Boyne asked that the Regional Council consider presenting a gift of appreciation to First Things First Chief Executive Officer Rhian Evans Allvin prior to her departure from First Things First in July 2013.

**Next Meeting on July 9, 2013 in Window Rock, Arizona**

The next Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting will be held on July 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time) at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room #1, Loop Road and Highway 264, Window Rock, Arizona 86515. A Work Group will precede the Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

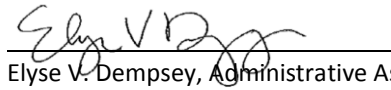
**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Member Seanez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Ashley. Motion carried. Vice Chair Boyne adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:37 p.m.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elyse V. Dempsey", is written over a horizontal line.

Elyse V. Dempsey, Administrative Assistant II

---

Harry Martin, Chair